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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant: Ryuichi ISHII et al.

Title: HEAT-RESISTING STEEL,
METHOD FOR THERMALLY
TREATING HEAT-RESISTING
STEEL, AND COMPONENTS
MADE OF HEAT-RESISTING
STEEL

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Appl. No.: 09/725,234

Filing Date: November 29, 2000

Examiner: S. IP

Art Unit: 1742

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APR -5 2001
TC 1700 MAIL ROOM

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT
UNDER 37 CFR §1.56

Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

Submitted herewith on Form PTO-1449 is a listing of documents known to Applicants in order to comply with Applicants' duty of disclosure pursuant to 37 CFR §1.56. A copy of each listed document is being submitted to comply with the provisions of 37 CFR §1.97 and §1.98.

The submission of any document herewith, which is not a statutory bar, is not intended as an admission that such document constitutes prior art against the claims of the present application or that such document is considered material to patentability as defined in 37 CFR §1.56(b). Applicants do not waive any rights to take any action which would be appropriate to antedate or otherwise remove as a competent reference any document which is determined to be a *prima facie* art reference against the claims of the present application.

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TIMING OF THE DISCLOSURE

The listed documents are being submitted in compliance with 37 CFR §1.97(c), before the mailing date of either a final action under 37 CFR §1.113, a notice of allowance under 37 CFR §1.113, or an action that otherwise closes prosecution in the application.

RELEVANCE OF EACH DOCUMENT

Document A1 relates to materials for a steam turbine rotor which have to contain cobalt.

Document A2 relates to materials for a steam turbine rotor. Nitrogen is not contained in the chemical composition and the materials invariably contain niobium.

Document A3 relates to materials for a steam turbine rotor.

English translations of the foreign-language documents are not readily available. However, the absence of such translations does not relieve the PTO from its duty to consider the submitted foreign language documents (37 CFR §1.98 and MPEP §609). English language abstracts are attached.

Applicants respectfully request that any listed document be considered by the Examiner and be made of record in the present application and that an initialed copy of Form PTO-1449 be returned in accordance with MPEP §609.

FEE

A fee in connection with submission of an information disclosure statement under 37 CFR §1.17(p) in the amount of \$180.00 is attached.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees which may be required regarding this application under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16-1.17, or credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account No. 19-0741. Should no proper payment be enclosed herewith, as by a check being in the wrong amount, unsigned, post-dated, otherwise

improper or informal or even entirely missing, the Commissioner is authorized to charge the unpaid amount to Deposit Account No. 19-0741.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: April 4, 2001

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